

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains or with which it is most clearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. In particular, the Examiner takes exception with the recitation of "a mounting for wave plate comprising a journal box," as being a single means claim. The applicant did not intend to write a means claims.

Claims 1-9 (those rewritten in independent form) have been amended to remove the limitation of a journal box. Applicant would note that claims 1-14 have been canceled, without prejudice but the aforementioned change has been incorporated in claims 7-9 as rewritten in independent form.

The Examiner objected to claims 15, 16, 17, 19, and 22-24 because of informalities. Claims 15, 16, 17, 19, and 22-24 have been amended to correct the cited informalities.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Henkes et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,936,680.

The Examiner further rejected claims 10-13 and 17-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe, U.S. Patent No. 6,460,998.

In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 14 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe, U.S. Patent No. 6,460,998.

In order to most easily overcome the Examiner's rejection, claims 1-14, and 17-24 have been canceled, without prejudice.

The Examiner indicated that claims 7-9 and 15-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 7-9 and 15-16 have been rewritten as new claims 32-36, with the corrections to the objections likewise included therein.


Henkes et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,936,680, is related to a system for the enhancement of fingerprint minutia. As such, Henkes et al. teach the use of a polarizer that may be rotated to enhance the ability to image a fingerprint of a person. As it may be readily apparent, the polarizing of Henkes et al. is wholly unrelated to a projection system.

Watanabe, U.S. Patent No. 6,460,998, relates to an adjustment mechanism and projector employing the adjustment mechanism. As it may be observed in Watanabe, the adjustment mechanism permits minor angular movement of the polarizing element supported therein, as illustrated in Figure 9. Accordingly, Watanabe has no realization that a potential improvement to the alignment of the polarization may be achieved by permitting a significant angular movement, as discussed in the applicant's patent specification. Accordingly, there would be no motivation in Watanabe to include a significant rotational movement of the adjustment mechanism, nor would such a rectangular adjustment mechanism as shown by Watanabe facilitate a greater angular movement.

New claim 37 is patentably distinguishable over the cited references of record by claiming a beam splitter and imaging device, a light source, and a projection element where the light from the light source passes along an optical path through the beam splitter and is imaged by the imaging device prior to passing through the projection element. It is noted that there is no claimed order of arrangement of the beam splitter and the imaging device. A wave plate is supported within the optical path that is rotatable exceeding 90 degrees.

Claims 38-45 depend from claim 37, either directly or indirectly, and are patentable for the same reasons asserted for claim 37.

Respectfully submitted,

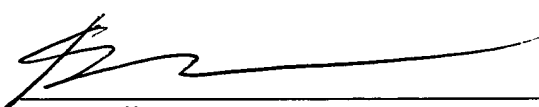


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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APPENDIX

15.(amended twice) The mounting of claim 11 wherein said [support] supporting structure is adapted to support said wave plate for rotation exceeding 180 degrees.

16.(amended twice) The mounting of claim 11 wherein said [support] supporting structure is adapted to support said wave plate for rotation exceeding 90 degrees.

17.(amended twice) The mounting of claim 11 wherein said [support] supporting structure is adapted to support said wave plate for rotation exceeding 360 degrees.

19.(amended twice) The mounting of claim 11 wherein said wave plate rotates with respect to said [support] supporting structure.